JAM 3 1 2005 OF TRADERMENT

Appl. No. 09/928,680

Amdt. Dated January 25, 2005

Response to Office Action of August 25, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical linkage device for securing a first part and a

second part, the first part including a first threaded portion, and the second part including a

second threaded portion that is screwable to the first threaded portion, wherein the first part

and the second part may be comprised of a lens member or a body housing imaging elements,

including either of a CCD sensor or a CMOS sensor, the optical linkage device comprising:

a plurality of positioning recesses that are formed at a circumference of the first part

such that a plurality of said recesses are located in a one-fourth portion of the circumference;

at least one positioning protrusion that is a plurality of positioning protrusions that are

formed in the second part, the positioning protrusion being selectively engageable with the

recess members when threading the first part onto the second part wherein said recesses and

said protrusion are rounded; and

a means for securing the first part and the second part in a permanent fixed

relationship,

wherein all of said plurality of positioning protrusions are positioned in some of said

plurality of positioning recesses when the first part and the second part are fixed to each

other.

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2. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 1, wherein

the first threaded portion is an external thread, and the second part is further comprised of

two or more positioning protrusions.

3. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 2, wherein

the second threaded portion is an internal thread.

4. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 1, wherein

the first part is a lens barrel.

5. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 4, wherein

the second part is a holder for holding the lens barrel, and further wherein an image pickup

device is mounted to the holder.

6. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 5, wherein,

by selecting a location of engagement for the recess and the protrusion, a desired focal

location between the image pickup device and the lens is achieved.

7. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 5, wherein

an image-forming-device focus adjustment pitch is determined at least in part by an

engagement pitch between the recess and the protrusion elements.

Claims 8-13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) An optical linkage device according to Claim 1, wherein

said second part comprises a plurality of protrusions and all of said protrusions

simultaneously engage with said recess members.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) An optical linkage device for securing a first part and a

second part, the first part including a first threaded portion, and the second part including a

second threaded portion that is screwable to the first threaded portion, wherein the first part

and the second part may be comprised of a lens member or a body housing imaging elements,

including either of a CCD sensor or a CMOS sensor, the optical linkage device comprising:

a plurality of positioning recesses that are formed at a circumference of the first part

such that a plurality of said recesses are located in a one-fourth portion of the circumference;

at least one positioning protrusion that is a plurality of positioning protrusions that are

formed in the second part, the positioning protrusion being selectively engageable with the

recess members when threading the first part onto the second part wherein said recesses and

said protrusion are rounded; and

wherein the threaded portion of the first part or the second part passes through a plane

in which the positioning protrusion engages the recess members during assembly,

wherein all of said plurality of positioning protrusions are positioned in some of said

plurality of positioning recesses when the first part and the second part are fixed to each

other.

Please add the following new claim:

17. (New) An optical linkage device for securing a first part and a second part, the

first part including a first threaded portion, and the second part including a second threaded

portion that is screwable to the first threaded portion, wherein the first part and the second

part may be comprised of a lens member or a body housing CMOS sensor, the optical linkage

device comprising:

a plurality of positioning recesses that are formed at the first part;

a plurality of positioning protrusions that are formed at the second part,

the positioning protrusion being selectively engageable with one of said plurality of

positioning recesses; and

wherein all of said plurality of positioning protrusions are positioned in some of said

plurality of positioning recesses when the first part and the second part are fixed each other.